2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

charity was directed into the right channel. There are exceptions, of course, and some Clubs have thrived and developed into very worth-while organisations which are indeed cultural and social. Often they combine their social activities with tennis or football or hockey, and these latter Clubs have done a very great deal of good. The Football Clubs are subject to the control of the Aden Sports Association, a purely unofficial organisation which came into being years ago as the Aden Football Association to control and encourage football in the Colony. It has fulfilled its purpose. Nowadays the existing Clubs of standing are mainly non-political; by which I do not mean that politics are not discussed—they certainly are—but that either the Club did not start as a political meeting place or that its main purpose is no longer political.

There are only three political parties in Aden. There never have been any more and originally there was only one, the Muslim Association. This organisation was inclined to be Pan-Islamic in outlook, which was not surprising because its moving spirit was for a long time an able and successful lawyer from Pakistan. Unfortunately for the Muslim Association the lawyer in question died in London when on his first visit to this country. After his death the Association lost most of its drive and has, from a political angle, become merged in the Aden Association.

The Aden Association is the main political party and is composed of the moderates. It came into being from the political side of the Muslim Association and the more mature of the Arab political leaders. By the middle of 1956 it was a comparatively well organised body whose political platform was, broadly speaking, internal self-government for the Colony. Up till then it had kept an open mind on the question of union between the Colony and the Protectorate. Some of the members would undoubtedly have liked to see some form of union, but I doubt if any of them would have been prepared to commit themselves publicly to a definite policy of union. They preferred to wait and see how the Protectorate developed both politically and economically before making any definite pronouncement. They are only too well aware

000 more conventional range from golf to polo and from tennis to yachting, and from small and quite delightful dinner parties to large and devastating cocktail parties. In fact, you can do practically everything in and around Aden that can be done elsewhere in the world with the exception of winter sports, rugby football and bowls.

526 The great game of the local people is Association Football
575 and there are more than twenty Football Clubs registered with the Aden Sports Association, which is a predominantly Asiatic body and which exercises a degree of control over the Clubs much on the lines of the Football Association in this country. The Association controls also the Stadium in Crater where the more important games are held and where Arabs, Indians and Somalis collect in thousands with a few Europeans on Saturday afternoons when important competition games are in progress. The standard of play is very high and nowadays there is not nearly so much rough play as there used to be and players and, or, spectators seldom come to blows on or off the ground. The hooliganism often demonstrated in this country has not
000 yet reached Aden. In this respect it is still a backward and
529 undeveloped country. Personally, although I always took an
563 interest in the game, I never played football and confined my more athletic pursuits to hockey and tennis and I swam at Gold Mohur Bathing Club spasmodically until I discovered it had a colour bar rule, the only Club in Aden to have one, and then I left. I was not sorry to go because the Club had become very crowded and amply demonstrated the unfortunate fact that those who can afford to remove their clothing seldom do and those who should remain covered in the common interest always display as much of their ample acreage as the over-liberal
000 laws permit. My main pursuits were sailing and shooting, and
526 in my earlier days sea fishing. Most unfortunately sailing and
575 shooting are seasonal in Aden and the season is the same for both, so I was forever being torn between the two and what made matters much worse was that the Aden Yacht Club's weekly race was on Sunday morning, and Sunday morning was the only morning in the week that my conscience would
000 allow me to take off to shoot. Generally I shot until Christmas

3:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Club and Welfare Institutions

There are branches of both the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides Associations in Aden. Of Boy Scouts there were seven troops in 1938, of Girl Guides three and of Brownies three. 575

Football is the most popular game in Aden both among school boys and young men. League and cup matches are managed by a local Football Association which at the end of 1938 was reconstituted as the Aden Sports Association and now also organises hockey and cricket competitions. [526]

A branch of the St. John Ambulance Association organizes first-aid classes for school children and adults.

Aden is prolific in clubs of various kinds among almost all sections of the community.

Recreation

Facilities exist for most forms of recreation. The Aden Football Association exercises general control of the numerous football clubs and is endeavouring to raise the general standard of play and to encourage the right spirit. In addition to the military grounds at Steamer Point (Tawahi) there are grounds reserved for the local inhabitants at Tawahi, Crater, Maala and Sheikh Othman. Hockey and cricket are played both at Tawahi and Crater. Apart from the military grounds there is only one hockey ground at Crater. There are tennis clubs in Crater and Tawahi, and one in the military area which is reserved for civil and military Europeans. 526 575

Polo and golf and squash rackets are played at Khormaksar, and No. 8 (B) Squadron have a golf course of their own. There is a European bathing club at Gold Mohur Bay, which is open to non-residents on payment of a small charge. At Tawahi there are the Union Club and the Orient Club, the former being a European social institution and the latter a small social club, the members of which are principally Anglo-Indians and Goans. The Arabs have organized two social clubs, one at Crater and the other at Tawahi. They interest themselves in social matters and provide facilities on their premises for games and meetings. Arabic periodicals are taken and occasionally lectures are given.

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

Shipping

The number of vessels, exclusive of country craft, which entered the port of Aden during 1938 was 2,079 with an aggregate tonnage of 8,650,411. 505

The number of country craft entering the port during 1938 was 1,620 with an aggregate tonnage of 75,271.